

Dear FCC,

I am a private citizen who has bought HDTV receiving equipment. I would like to commend the FCC on its leadership in prodding the broadcast industry to accelerate the DTV transition. Myself and many thousands of other HDTV viewers have invested considerable sums of money into HDTV equipment because we have lured by the promise that "HDTV is coming." Unfortunately the rate of adoption has been hampered by some television networks and stations that have been foot-dragging. In order for the HDTV procrastination to stop, the FCC must show that it means business. Your proposed rules on inexcusable delays do just that.

I am in the Sacramento-Stockton TV market (one of the national top 20). Case in point on foot-dragging is KMAX 31, a local station. All of the other locals are simulcasting in DTV or HDTV. Yet KMAX remains analog only, and the FCC granted KMAX an extension. KMAX says they need more time for antenna design and construction. This doesn't make sense when all of the locals are using the same antenna farm, yet they are on the air with DTV. Clearly its a lack of planning and commitment on KMAX's part. Unless the FCC puts teeth into the DTV transition, DTV procrastinators like KMAX 31 will forever seek extensions.

Again, I applaud the FCC's renewed leadership in HDTV and I fully support the proposed rule.

/s/ James E. Varney

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